

FORDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the  
year ending 31st December 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Forden Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the  
year 1954.

As I was Medical Officer of Health for the last three  
months of the year only I have confined myself in the report largely  
to statistical material only. I hope however that this material  
may be of some interest and possibly value.

I am indebted to Mr. Fred Hunt, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.l.,  
M.R.I.P.H.H., Sanitary Inspector, for his assistance in the preparation  
of the report (Sections C, D and E.)

I have the honour to be

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN SLEIGH.

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	49,774
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	5,090
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	1,564
Rateable value	£16,480
Sum represented by a penny rate	£69

Population

The mid 1954 population estimate of 5,090 represents a rise  
of 1.8% from the 1931 census population of 5,002 which represented  
a fall of 5.2% from the 1931 census population of 5,279.

Vital Statistics.

Forden Rural District 1954	England & Wales 1953
Rates per 1000	Home population
Live Births 18.3	15.5
Still Births 0.00	0.35
0.00 (a)	22.4 (a)

over:-

Vital Statistics.

Forden Rural District	England & Wales
1954	1953

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Rates per 1000</u>	<u>Home Population</u>
All causes	13.6	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.00	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.20
Influenza	0.00	0.16
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	0.00	0.55
<u>Notifications (corrected)</u>		
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.00	0.01
Meningococcal infections	0.00	0.03
Scarlet fever	0.39	1.39
Whooping cough	2.95	3.58
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01
Erysipelas	0.20	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.39	12.36
Pneumonia	1.38	0.84
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)		
Paralytic	0.00	0.07
Non-paralytic	0.00	0.04
Food poisoning	0.00	0.24
Puerperal pyrexia	0.00 (a)	18.23 (a)
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rates per 1000 Live Births</u>	
All causes under 1 year of age	21.5	26.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under two years of age		1.1

(a) Per 1000 Total (Live and Still )Births.

BIRTH RATE

The Birth Rate for 1954 (18.3 per 1000) was 2.8 per 1000 above that for England and Wales for 1953 (15.5 per 1000). If the rate is standardised to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in Forden Rural District as compared with that in England and Wales it is increased to 19.9 per 1000.

DEATH RATE

The Death Rate for 1954 (13.6 per 1000) was 2.2 per 1000 above that for England and Wales for 1953 (11.4 per 1000). If the rate is standardised to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in Forden Rural District as compared with that in England and Wales it is reduced to 11.7 per 1000.

It is regretted that it is not possible to give the figures for 1954 for England and Wales either in the two paragraphs above or in the table which precedes them, as the Registrar General has ceased to supply these. For this year only the figures for England and Wales for the previous year are sufficiently contemporary to be used for comparison, but in the future such comparison will no longer be possible.

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	45	46	91
Illegitimate	2	-	2
Total	47	46	93

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	-	2

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	-	2

DEATHS

Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	2	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	9	13
Coronary disease, angina	7	2	9
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
Other heart disease	12	5	17
Other circulatory disease	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Bronchitis	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-



<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	1	7
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All-other accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	1	-	1
All causes	<u>45</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>69</u>

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No action has been taken by the Council under this Section.

#### FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

No outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred during 1954.

#### CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS

No work in this field has been carried out in the area of this authority during 1954.

#### SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the area.

National Health Service Act 1946

Local Health Services under Part III.

Charge of duties under Sections 22 (Care of mothers and young children) 23 (Midwives) 24 (Health visitors) 25 (Home Nursing) 26 (Vaccination and Immunisation) 27 (Ambulances) 28 (Prevention of illness, care, and after - care) and 29 ( Domestic Help) remains with the County Medical Officer.

#### 1. SECTION C - Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

(i) - Water- An exceptionally wet summer was experienced, and in consequence, there was an abundance of water available in all the Parishes in the District except Bausley where 38 Council houses have recently been erected. As the result of a serious water shortage on this site, after consultation with the Geological and Survey Department and the appropriate Ministry Department, a second Borehole was sunk, with an internal diameter of six inches. The seven days continuous pumping test from this Borehole, which was drilled to a depth of 150 feet, was commenced on the 31st March, but, because the yield fell off daily, was continued until the 12th April.

The yield, which commenced at 8,108 gallons per 24 hours, became fairly constant on the 10th, 11th, and 12th April at 3,743, 3,702, and 3738 gallons per 24 hours. All yields were recorded through a meter. During this pumping test, the yield from the first Borehole was not altered in any way.

The extra quantity of water made available relieved the shortage, but the question of providing a piped supply of water by gravitation to this site, and indeed, to also meet the requirements of the Parish, where there is a general shortage, in the very near future, must be seriously considered.

Berriew - The minor details of work required to complete the scheme for improving the water supply position were carried out.

A piped chlorinated supply is now available to 16 Council houses, all other houses, one Dairy Farm, two Schools, a Bakery, and standpipes situated around the Village supply such premises where there are no piped supplies.

Berriew (Dyffryn Lane Council Houses). Each of the eight houses on this site has a semi-rotary pump in the back kitchen, and an adequate supply is available from a well.

Churchstoke - Water is pumped from a Borehole into an elevated water tank, and supplies are available to 32 Council Houses, eight other houses, the School and School Canteen. (Four more Council Houses are to be completed on this site).

Although sufficient water was available, there is evidence that the original yield of the Borehole has dropped considerably.

During the year, conversion to pumping by electricity in place of pumping by petrol engine was carried out.

Churchstoke (Pentrenant County Council Small Holdings). - An adequate supply of piped water is available for the tenants of these Small Holdings.

Abermule - An abundant supply of wholesome water is available for the tenants of four Council Houses at Parkside.

On the new Housing Site, where the work of erecting new houses will shortly commence, a Borehole, capable of being pumped at the rate of 24,000 gallons per 24 hours, is available.

Forden (Leighton Road Site) - An adequate and satisfactory supply is pumped from a Borehole, and piped to supply the ten Council Houses on this site. During the year, conversion was made to pumping by Electricity instead of by petrol engine.

Forden (Church Site) - An abundant supply of wholesome water is pumped from a Borehole and is piped to sixteen Council houses on this site. During the year, conversion was made to pumping by electricity instead of by petrol engine.

Middletown - A plentiful supply of chlorinated water is available for the ten Council houses on this site, and there will be sufficient for a further twenty Council houses which will be built here.

Llandyssil - An adequate supply, pumped from a Borehole, and piped to twenty Council houses, meets all requirements.



## COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF THE DISTRICT FOR A GENERAL WATER SUPPLY.

The Survey has been continued, wet and dry guagings have been made of the various sources, samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination, and, where considered necessary, for Chemical Analysis, and the work has now reached the stage where it is hoped that in the very near future it will be possible to present the scheme to the appropriate Ministry Department for consideration.

Leighton - A private piped supply, jointly owned by the occupiers of 19 Farms, Small Holdings, and Houses, is available for these premises, and in addition, the School and School House are supplied. Some years ago there usually was a shortage during the dry times of the year, but works of improving the supply were carried out, and as the result, no complaints as to shortage have been made for a considerable time. However, it is considered that there is not sufficient surplus for the needs of Council Houses which the Council is desirous of building in the area.

However, it is hoped that water will shortly be available by arrangement with Welshpool Borough Council, as this Authority propose to develop a useful spring in vicinity.

(ii) (DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE) - There have not been any changes during the year. With the exception of the sewage disposal plants on the various Council Housing Estates, no sewers are owned by the Council.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS - Apart from seeing to the quality of the effluent from the above mentioned sewage disposal plants, no action was necessary to check the pollution of rivers and streams.

(i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION - Owing to the truly rural nature of the area, quite a large number of pail closets are in use, but in every case where reconstruction of dwellings takes place, and certainly where new houses are built, every effort is made to lay on a supply of water and provide water closets, and the discharges from these are disposed of on the Septic Tank - Filter principle, with effluent to a nearby stream or tested soak-a-way. It is hoped that with the arrival of a piped water supply throughout the District, it will be possible to carry out quite a number of conversions from conservancy to water carriage systems.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING - No change. Domestic refuse is collected once a fortnight, throughout the area. There was no disinfections during the year.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA - The District has been inspected systematically and at intervals as required, and where defects have been found, these have in all cases been remedied by informal action.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES - All Shops and Offices have been inspected under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936. All were in satisfactory condition and no action was necessary.

(v) CAMPING SITES -

- (1) - No sites in the area were used for camping purposes during 1938.
- (2) - No licences in respect of camping sites have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, by this Local Authority.
- (3) - Estimated number of campers resident in the area at one time during the Summer Season, 1938 - None.

(vi) - SMOKE ABATEMENT - No action was necessary during the year, as fortunately nuisance from smoke does not exist in the area.

(vii) - SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS - There are none in the area.

(viii) - ERADICATION OF BED BUGS - Not a single dwelling in the area is infested with bed bugs.

4. SCHOOLS - All Schools in the District have a water supply, but in some instances, sanitary conditions could be improved. However, the Education Authority is taking steps in this direction, and it is hoped that in due course, all schools will be converted from conservancy to water carriage systems.

#### SECTION D. HOUSING.

##### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

- (1) (a) - Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) - sixty.
- (b) - Number of inspections made for this purpose - Sixty Five.
- (2) (a) - Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 - Nil.
- (b) - Number of inspections made for the purpose, - Nil.
- (3) - Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - Fourteen.
- (4) - Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. - Thirty.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.  
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - Thirty.

##### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
  - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs:- Nil.
- (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: - Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 2 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936:
  - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made: Nil.
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders: Nil.
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
  - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit: NIL.

##### 4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

- (a) - Number of houses overcrowded at the end of the year - Nil.
- (b) - Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year - Nil.
- (c) - Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year - Nil.
- (d) - Cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: Nil.



New Houses.

During the year Thirty Eight Council Houses were built at Bausley. Eighteen Council Houses were built at Churchstoke, and work is in progress on four.

Work is well in progress on the erection of twelve Council Houses at Middletown, and approval has been given for the erection of a further eight houses on this site.

Work is in progress on the building of four Council Bungalows at St. Michael's Crescent, Forden. Approval has been given for the erection of a further eight Council Houses on this site.

Houses built by Private Enterprise.

During the year, three houses were built by Private Enterprise.

Housing Act, 1949 - Part 11.

The provisions of Section 20 of this Act, under which grants of 50 per cent, with a maximum of £400 .0. Od. per dwelling, are available for modernising and bringing up to standard sub-standard dwellings, are being made known throughout the area. During the year a total of 22 applications and enquiries were made. Nine were refused, as the dwellings were unsuitable, two applications were withdrawn, particulars were awaited regarding a further five, and six applications were approved. It is known that more applications will be made.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) - Milk Supply - The duties of supervising methods of milk production at Farms, and the inspection of premises used in connection with milk production, are carried out by the County Agricultural Executive Committee, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. However, so far as distribution by retailers is concerned the position is closely watched, and during the year, conditions were satisfactory.

(b) - Meat and Other Foods - Until the 1st. July, 1954, the slaughtering of animals for human consumption was centralised, and for this area, it was carried out at Newtown, under Government arrangements.

However, before decentralisation took place, meetings were held with Butchers and other interested parties, and it was decided not to re-open and licence any slaughter house in the District as the needs of the area could be met from slaughter houses outside the District. One slaughter house in Montgomery supplies a large portion of the District, and the remainder is supplied by Butchers trading in the area, but whose premises are outside the area. Meat Vans are kept under supervision, and during the year, conditions were satisfactory.



## SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Controls over Infectious and other Diseases.  
Final Numbers according to sex and age after corrections of cases of  
infectious and other notifiable diseases, notified during the year  
ended 31st December, 1954.

	<u>Scarlet fever</u>			<u>Whooping Cough</u>			<u>Measles</u>		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year					1	1			
1 - 2 years				1		1	1		1
3 - 4 "				1	1	2			
5 - 9 "		1	1	3	7	10	1		1
10-14 "		1	1	1		1			
15-24 "									
25 and over									
Age unknown									
Total(all ages)	2	2	2	6	9	15	2		2

	<u>Acute Pneumonia</u>			<u>Erysipelas</u>		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	1		1			
5 - 14 "						
15-44 "	4	1	5			
45-64 "	1		1	1	1	
65 and over						
Age unknown						
Total (All ages)	6	1	7	1	1	

	<u>Tuberculosis</u>			<u>Meninges and C.N.S.</u>			<u>Other</u>		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total

Under 5 years  
5-14 Years  
15 - 24 Years  
25 - 44 "  
45 - 64 "  
65 and over  
Age unknown  
Total (all ages)

1		1							
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Age Periods	<u>New Cases</u>						<u>Deaths</u>					
	<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Non-Respiratory</u>			<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
0-												
1-												
5-												
15-	2	1	3									
25-	1	1	2									
35-	1	-	1									
45-	1	1	2									
55-												
65-and upwards												
Total	5	3	8									

10.

Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December 1954  
(31st December 1953 in brackets)

	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>
Respiratory	12	(8)	10	(9)	22 (17)
Non-Respiratory	-	(-)	2	(2)	2 (2)
Total	12	(8)	12	(11)	24 (19)